

SHOE LACE

Inventor:

Antoinette Tricker

*Attorneys for Applicant:*

*Andrus, Sceales, Starke & Sawall, LLP*

*100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100*

*Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-4178*

*(414) 271-7590*

*Fax: (414) 271-5770*

*Attorney Docket No.: 1926-00095*

*Client Ref. No.: 5/4/13485.US*



## SHOE LACE

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

**[0001]** This invention relates to a shoe lace for all types of shoes.

**[0002]** Traditional shoe laces can cause all sorts of problems for users. They have a habit of coming undone which can result in the user having to stoop down several times a day to re-tie them, or they can trail along the floor causing accidents. The tying process itself can prove difficult for the very young and the elderly, or for those with manual dexterity problems or mental disabilities, as can loosening a lace sufficiently to allow the user to place a foot into the shoe. It is also sometimes difficult to achieve a 'tight' feel to laces in sports footwear such as running shoes and football boots.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

**[0003]** An object of this invention is to provide a lace which can be used either singly or in multiples of the use's choice, to overcome all the difficulties listed above.

**[0004]** Accordingly, this invention provides a shoe lace comprising a cord stiffened with soft wire, a conventional end piece at one end and a buckle or anchoring device incorporating two holes at the other, which is threaded singly between two opposite eyelets on a shoe and secured either by being twisted around the buckle or by being threaded through the two holes in the buckle.

**[0005]** Preferably the buckle is rounded and unobtrusive in design, and is made of a light plastic material, but it may instead be of any shape or design, and made from metal or wood or any combination of materials, or customized for purposes of fashion or individual preference.



## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- [0006] A preferred embodiment of the invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:
- [0007] In the drawings:
- [0008] Figure 1 shows the outward appearance of the lace;
- [0009] Figure 2 shows a sectional view of the lace;
- [0010] Figure 3 shows a side view of the lace and buckle;
- [0011] Figure 4 depicts the threading process from insertion of the lace into the shoe's eyelets to fastening; and
- [0012] Figure 5 illustrates the various methods of securing the lace to the buckle.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

- [0013] As shown in Figure 1 the shoe lace comprises a cord 3 through which runs an inner core of soft wire 4, which is secured at one end by a traditional end piece 5 and at the other by a buckle 1 containing two holes 2. Figure 2 is a sectional view of the lace showing the course of the inner wiring 4, while Figure 3 depicts the lace 3 and buckle 1 from the side.
- [0014] Figure 4 gives a step-by-step breakdown of the threading process, while in Figure 5 the various methods of securing the lace 3 around the buckle 1 are shown. The first two examples show the lace 3 threaded through the buckle 1 and positioned to either side of the shoe, the third example shows the lace 3 threaded in the same way but centered, while the last two illustrations show the lace 3 having been twisted around the buckle 1.